



Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church

Annual Report

2019

Minister's Report

Drawing on the gospel story of Christ walking on the water as the disciples sail their boat to the other side, Thomas Troeger writes a hymn that begins,

Safe landing on distant shore begins by setting out...

I have a strong sense that Gordon-Pymble has set out on a significant journey by choosing to amalgamate our two congregations into one. It really is a journey (an overused metaphor) because it requires a great deal of planning, there are different markers along the way and we are moving to a 'distant shore'.

While we never completely arrive, that distant shore for now is to meld our two congregations into one unified family (mainly achieved) and capitalize on our considerable resources to in order to share faith in a new way for people in our wider community. That shore remains on the horizon but we are making excellent progress.

There have been times during the year when it has felt like we have had a strong wind behind us and other times when we seem to be more becalmed. We have certainly achieved a great deal in the administrative and financial areas – the Business Team who has led this area (and had a head start on the other teams) has worked extremely hard and well under Lyn McLennan's leadership and Darryl Maytom's tenure as Treasurer. Well done to the whole team.

Church Council is also rattling along (switching to a train metaphor). Lloyd Robinson in the Chair has balanced well the need to embrace the larger visionary issues of who we are and how we will work, with the more mundane but necessary management business. The Council is working well and Lloyd is strongly supported by David Turner (Secretary) and Brian Gill (Deputy Chair).

I was pleased to develop the 5-team structure but it took longer than I had hoped to establish them all. However, they are (almost) all operational (with the Mission Team to have their first meeting very soon.) Once established, the members of these teams have worked well and creatively and have attacked their areas of responsibility with energy and fresh vision. Thanks go to Chairs, Bruce Kwong (Communications), Kerry Blight (Community Connections) and Janet Scott (Faith Development) and all the members. I will be convening the Mission Team for the balance of this year.

The areas that seem slow are the moves to appoint new staff and to begin a new service. These efforts are at the heart of what we are aiming at, yet it is ill-advised just to jump into such significant developments. It really is about discernment, lest we start something that crashes quickly. And there are many options so we do need to discern carefully. Yet we must also guard against planning fatigue, where out of fear, we never actually commit to anything.

This year has also been something of a journey for me as I have realized that as Minister of a newly shaped congregation I need to work differently. Our new structure requires me to work more strategically than I have in the past and that isn't always easy to do. Like everyone I

tend to get into comfortable habits but it has been energizing for me to have a fresh challenge.

In addition to those mentioned above, I would like to express thanks to our wonderful staff, Nicola, Courtney and Natasha as they work wisely and creatively in their respective positions, and to Sue Conde for her role as Congregational Chair.

Thomas Troeger concludes his hymn with these words that seem to be appropriate for us in our continuing journey.

*Christ calls when mortal hope has died
to hope in one thing more:
that borne on love's eternal tide
we'll safely land ashore.*

We travel with the knowledge that Christ is in the boat with us helping us to sail towards the distant shore.

Rev Steve Aynsley

Church Council Report for the calendar year 2019

This Council was elected from the former congregations of Gordon and Pymble to a single council which formally commenced work in January 2019. Its purpose was to establish a new path for the congregation, taking the hopes and dreams of five years of work into reality. This includes both further work explaining and communicating the purpose of the new congregation and establishing its structure.

There have been a number of practical achievements of Council this year. We have:

- Established five teams of Council, devolving power to 20-30 additional people. We hope that each of these teams will explore the edges, try new things and experience the freedom to explore faith, hope and love. The teams are Faith Development, Mission, Community Connections, Communications and Business. They have the delegated power in their area of interest through their plans and projects and reports to Council. If you want to be involved, contact info@gpuc.org.au and we will connect you to a team
- Transitioned staff into the new organisation, establishing their roles and encouraged a new dialogue in meetings. The staff are starting to work like a team, providing the partnership that the church needs to establish between paid and volunteer people
- Established a number of operational policies and expectations that needed to be clarified in the new congregation. These include a new magazine, rosters, combined lists of people, lease agreements, and photography policy. There is more work to be done, for example; on our computer systems and pastoral care systems

- Worked to a discipline of having a major topic for each monthly meeting (for around one hour) and then working through the general business arising and other issues in the second hour.

But, there is more that has been achieved in the teams and this is where much progress has been made. Across the teams, they have started to establish:

- Charters to guide their scope and purpose
- Priorities of what they plan to progress as strategic actions
- Resources (e.g. staffing requests and allocation of funds under their control).

Then there is actual work such as budgets, property maintenance (business team), contact lists, web site planning (communications team), planning a “new service” (faith development team), planning new community groups and staffing (community connections) and planning mission priorities and continuing the current rural engagement (mission team).

We have set in motion consideration of a number of initiatives that we would like to commence in 2020. They include:

- Increased access and participation in worship and new ways to find transcendence – we call this a “new service”
- Increased community involvement, establishing transition points between ages, engaging with community groups and growing our support of local not-for-profits
- Establishing a number of mission objectives, still focussing on rural communities
- A longer-term view of our property strategy
- New web sites and enhanced communications.

We will continue to stretch outwards. We will continue to enmesh ourselves with our community. We will claim it is not our church, but their church. We are proud of what we have done, but we are prouder of what they will do. We will celebrate our service but celebrate their service as well. We will continue to find our exclusion behaviours (social, political and religious) and replace them with openness and inclusiveness. We will use our constitution, regulations and history – not as a sword to divide – but a ploughshare to sow community.

This Council has been a transitional one, where we still have some allegiance to our former congregations. This year, Council will be drawn from across the one congregation without reference to our former congregations. This is an exciting new expression of our oneness.

It has been a pleasure and honour to be the chair of a fabulous group of people this year. The spirit of Council has been fantastic and because of this, we have made progress. It is surprising how many little decisions are required by the merger. We have worked through them step-by-step and tackled the big decisions as well!

Enjoy
Lloyd Robinson
 Council Chair

Family Ministry

Nicola and Courtney continue to run 5 **Playgroup** sessions each week to support the 130 plus families registered with GPUC Playgroups this year. Four playgroups sessions cater for all ages (0-5 years pre-schoolers) and a Monday afternoon group specifically geared for Mums with their newborn babies. During this session we provide a lovely lunch for the Mums to sit, relax and share milestones. The playgroups have earned \$7500 net in the first 3 terms of 2019. Expenses have cost approximately \$2000. This includes the cost of flyers, polo shirts for staff, fruit, craft materials, new toys and Courtney attending a First Aid course.

Each term we focus on fun and exciting themes. The programs at the two centres are different which allows for variety for those families attending both. One of the highlights at Pymble has been the focus on books written by Eric Carle. The favourite being *"The Very Hungry Caterpillar"*. It's wonderful to see the children enjoy the various craft activities, music singalongs and quality time with their Parents/Grandparents/Carers. Pymble's newly updated courtyard with preschool art has been a lovely addition to the premises especially during the warmer months. At Gordon, the children have enjoyed watering and watching the plants grow in our new community garden. We are grateful for a trampoline donated by one of the grandparents to replace the rather worn old one.

Courtney continues to actively use the public **GPUC Playgroups** Facebook page to communicate with the families on weekly updates and fun photos. Both sites now share toys (including Connect 4 and soft play mats) across locations to increase the variety of toys and activities we offer between both sites.

Both Nicola and Courtney feel well supported and cover each other's sessions whilst on holidays or for whatever reason they are unable to attend a session. This together with our loyal volunteers ensures playgroup continues to be successful in reaching out to our younger families. Nicola and Courtney meet on a regular basis to discuss future directions and to explore ways in which to improve both the Playgroups and Messy Church.

Messy Church meets on the first Saturday of the month (with the exception of January) from 4.30-6.30pm. There is a small core group of regulars attending each month. However, there are a number of families who attend irregularly.

The highlight this year has been the developing singing and dance group led ably by Glenda, Matt and David from SCUC supported by Rochelle. This has brought a vibrancy to our celebration times.

Stories during Celebration this year have included Woman at the Well, Story of Gideon, Abraham, Good Samaritan, Being a disciple, and Whobodies. We encouraged Messy Church families to attend The Easter Experience Walk through, which they did. Our July Bonfire Messy and Stir Up Messy are two opportunities for Playgroup families to attend a non-threatening "Messy Church". December Messy focuses on the Christmas Story. What happens when you outgrow Messy Church? This question is not new. We would love to solve this issue, and continue to explore options.

Courtney Heyden and Nicola Robinson

Congregation

'There's a spirit in the air The new congregation of Gordon-Pymble came into being as the new year began, with a spirit of hope, optimism, energy and expectation. We have been blessed with the dedicated and inspired leadership of Rev Steve Aynsley, Lloyd Robinson and the members of the Church Council, as well as the new leaders of the five teams, the team members and the faithfulness of each member of the congregation who has caught the vision and walks with us into the new future.

We are thankful for the support in ministry and worship services from Rev Dr Bernard Thorogood, the chaplains of Pymble Ladies College (PLC), Revs Lorenzo Rodriguez-Torres and Punam Bent, and from Rev Paul Swadling, for services conducted when Steve has been on leave.

The congregations have adapted to the new rhythm of services on Sundays, with the morning service at Pymble moving to the new time of 9 am, and at Gordon at 10.30 am. The combined service which is held on the first Sunday of each month, alternately at Pymble and Gordon, has proved to be a valued time of worship and fellowship together. A significant symbol of the new merged congregation was the invitation to the Principal, Mrs Anne Johnston, and boarders of Ravenswood to join in the traditional combined service with PLC boarders at PLC Chapel in May. The Chapel was filled with joy and song, as we also celebrated the baptism of five children.

We also record our thanks to our organists and musicians who accompany our morning worship this week. We are blessed to have such a treasure of faithful musicians to accompany and enhance our worship

As we seek to honour our commitment to the initiatives for the new congregation, the Tuesday night Conversations group provides a time with dinner and conversations to find new ways to connect with those seeking spirituality and faith, and we thank Steve, Nicola and Lloyd for their commitment to this emerging group.

Significant Congregation events have already done much to bring the two former congregations together into a feeling of unity and fellowship, especially the Autumn Festival with its traditional Spit Roast, and the Chuseok Thanksgiving Dinner with Sydney Community Uniting Church. This dinner was held as a joint event with our Korean partners at Gordon, where we celebrated together with a Korean banquet, followed by Aussie desserts.

Other special events have included the Wrap with Love community day at Gordon, and the Dungog Day Out to Sculpture on the Farm in October.

Special birthdays have been celebrated with members of the congregation, and we have been saddened by the loss of special friends and family members. We are thankful for their faithful witness and service as members of the congregation.

We look forward to the year ahead, as we *'praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world.'*

*Sue Conde AM
Chair of the Congregation*

Business Team - Report from the Treasurer – 1 January – 30 June 2019

The first half year operations of the Business Team have been very good with excellent progress in establishing the systems and addressing the problems associated with management of the property of the merged congregations.

Accounting and Finance

The work of the Team commenced in late 2018 to ensure that all the systems were in place prior to 1st January. This work included:

- Establishment of bank accounts and the authorities to operate the accounts
- Registration of new ABN and charitable registration.
- Creation of a new Chart of Accounts
- New contracts for all staff
- Transfer of all staff to the Synod Payroll system
- Changes to the workers compensation policies
- Transfers for all property insurances and rates etc
- Advice to all tenants of the two major properties
- Advice to all suppliers to both GUC and PUC,
- and many more.

Financial Position

The financial position of the GPUC is very sound. At 30th June, the total cash and investments totaled \$440,102. Whilst this position may sound very good, it must be compared with our existing liabilities and the expected liabilities in the next five years.

As at 30th June, 2019, we have a remaining debt of \$89,013 on the St Ives Manse. This debt has been further reduced to \$57,013 as at the end of September.

During the first half year, the Business Team has completed the survey of all furniture and fittings and equipment and anticipated expenditure for the next five years for Gordon Church. This survey concluded that the Team will need to have funds in excess of \$100,000 for replacements by 2024.

This work is yet to be completed for Pymble; however, it could reasonably be expected that similar amounts will be required for this church and its halls.

If these estimates are confirmed, it means that GPUC could need as much as \$250,000 for replacements of Building, Furniture, Fittings and Equipment (BFF&E) by 2024. This figure allows for inflation for all items.

The current reserve for BFF&E is \$95,000 (it was \$65,000 as at 30th June) and that amount is part of the total estimates mentioned above.

From this brief summary it can be concluded that the total funds listed above are not as healthy as appears.

However, the overall position is not one that causes the Business Team any concern. The following is a summary of the key points of our finances for the first half year:

- The income and expenditure statement shows a surplus of \$20,549 for the half year to 30th June 2019.
- The primary reason for this above budget surplus is that the budget provided for employment of additional staff and this did not occur in the six-month period.
- The reduced debt for the St Ives Manse is now saving the congregation approximately \$6,100 per annum in interest.
- The income from congregational collections represents 38% of total revenue
- The income from our property represents 49.6% of total revenue
- Energy costs are reducing rapidly following the installation of solar energy for both of both churches and the Pymble Manse. The Pymble properties' work has been completed in the current financial year .

New Format for Balance Sheet

In the attached financial statements, it will be noticed that the balance sheet is altered from the detail used by the two old congregations.

The major change is the deletion of all fixed assets from the balance sheet. These assets totalled about \$20 million. Whilst the inclusion of the fixed assets may have left some members with the belief that we are a wealthy church; the conclusion is incorrect and very misleading.

The legal position is that all assets of all congregations are owned by the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW). Whilst the new congregation has certain rights in occupation of the buildings, and has responsibility to maintain all fixed assets in good working condition, we have no power to buy; sell or mortgage these assets without Synod approval. If for any reason the congregation decided to close; the Synod would take full control of the assets.

Under the new policy recommended by the Business Team, the balance sheet will not include fixed assets. It will be the required that:

1. A listing of all fixed assets will be included in the Treasurer's annual report, with a detailed note indicating the basis of valuation of each asset class. This approach has the approval of Synod and the GPUC auditor.
2. All new purchases of assets will be included as an expense item of the Income and Expenditure Statement, and
3. Where appropriate the capital expenditure will be offset by an income item which will be a transfer from the Buildings, Furniture, Fittings and Equipment Reserve.

Fixed Assets

In accordance with the above policy, the following is a listing of the fixed assets of the GPUC:

Land Value of Properties	\$
• G Church and Highway Centre	2,190,000
• Woodhouse	764,000
• Manse – St Ives	1,170,000
• P – Church, Hall and Manse	<u>2,210,000</u>
Total	6,334,000
Buildings and Fixtures	\$
• Gordon Church and Highway Centre	4,031,861
• Woodhouse	420,250
• Manse – St Ives	760,750
• Pymble – Church, Hall and Manse	<u>8,035,000</u>
Total	13,247,861
Other Assets	\$
• G Church & Halls	8,438
• P LED sign	16,463
• P Halls Contents	<u>436,657</u>
Total	461,558
TOTALS	\$20,043,419

NOTES

1. The contents of the Gordon Church and Halls will be increased when the final report has been received following the stock take referred to elsewhere in this report. The new replacement value is likely to exceed \$400,000
2. The value of the Gordon church and halls appears to be low when compared to the Pymble assets. That has probably occurred because the Pymble extension was carried out more recently whereas the Gordon extensions are older and have been increased by annual % only. These matters will be discussed with the insurers.

As provided with the new policy, the following is the basis of valuations used for the fixed assets:

- Furniture and fittings and equipment are valued by insurance values/insurance cover, which is based on replacement costs. . All such values are based on actual cost plus annual increases.
- Land is valued as per the valuation figures issued by the Valuer General of NSW.
- All buildings are valued on replacement insurance value as determined by the insurers for the Synod.

Budget 2019/20

Attached to this report is the budget for 2019/20.

The major change in this budget is for the provision for two additional staff positions. Both positions are part time. The actual decision in regard to these two positions has been referred to the Church Council for decision.

*Darryl Maytom,
Treasurer*

Property Report

The Business Team has undertaken a number of property activities during the first six months of 2019. An extensive review of the furniture, fittings and equipment in the Gordon Church and Highway Centre has provided us with important data as to both the assets themselves and expected future needs for maintenance and replacement. A similar review of the Pymble Church and halls will be completed before the end of this year.

Different members of the Team have assumed responsibility for the different properties under our stewardship. Those Team members have then identified immediate work required at each property. The Team acknowledges the contribution of non-Team member David Brawn, who is taking responsibility for Woodhouse. Each property has been assessed to determine future capital needs. This assessment has formed the basis of the property work proposed in the 2019 -2020 budget.

Various items of work have been undertaken at Pymble:

Calling of quotes for installation of solar panels on the halls and the Manse, the installation work to be completed before the end of 2019, with an expected cost of approximately \$23,000

Assessing the water ingress problem in the print room and the Church, with work to be carried out after 30 June at a cost of at least \$50,000.

Obtaining quotes for noise reduction at the Manse, to be completed in November 2019 at a cost of approximately \$16,000. This sound proofing has become necessary as the amount of building work in the vicinity of the Manse has increase and following the completion of the construction the noise levels from increased people movements and traffic will be worse.

Items of work at Gordon:

Connection to the grid of the solar panels installed in 2018 was achieved in April 2019

Roof repairs. Repair work has been undertaken on some parts of the rear roof of the Highway Centre, although some further leaks have been identified and require rectification. We have allowed \$10,00 for this work.

The installation and rectification of pavers in the external courtyard, (outside the Highway Centre), at a cost of \$1,500.

Quotes are being obtained for repairs to the foyer timbers and replacement of carpets and the re-varnishing of the pews. This work will likely be carried out in early 2020.

Plumbing work and electrical work have been carried out at the St Ives Manse after the Blair family notified the BT of sewage blocks (caused by roots in pipes) and fuse tripping related to the wiring of the circuit servicing the pool.

All properties have received the regular maintenance and fixing of small problems that arise from time to time.

The Business team greatly values the input from Congregation members who have told us of problems they have observed in our buildings, provided expertise (particularly in relation to the proposed solar installation) and contributed via working bees or personal attention to maintenance items.

Lyn McLennan
Chair, Business Team

Attachments

1. Income and Expenditure Statement – 30th June 2019
2. Balance Sheet – 30th June 2019
3. Budget for 2019/20

Community Connections Team Report

The Community Connections Team was formed, in August 2019 after discussion in GPUC Council this year. The purpose of the Community Connections team is to oversee and encourage the development of GPUC community groups in order to meet the fellowship expectations of GPUC and the wider community in a safe and caring environment.

The Team consists of nine members who are: Kerry Blight (Chair), Rev. Steve Aynsley, John Buchanan, Sue Conde, Andrew Cripwell, Nan Lewis, Nicola Robinson, Pru Tout and Ross Tout. We are fortunate at the moment to also have Duncan McDiarmid as an ex- officio member of the Team. The Team has had two meetings since formation with another planned in November.

Our focus at the moment is to promote the many varied and vibrant community groups ranging from playgroups to Mah-jong, and activities including Stir-Up Sunday and the Jacaranda Concert at GPUC to the wider community by developing print and electronic material that can easily be distributed. Overall there are more than twenty groups meeting at either the Pymble or Gordon sites or in private homes. As well, the Community Connections Team is keen to encourage the development of further activities and groups.

Kerry Blight
Chair, Community Connections Team

Uniting City and Country

The Uniting City and Country (UCC) committee was established almost four years ago when Gordon, Pymble and Killara were in our Village phase. The idea was to take the successful partnership concept that existed between Pymble, PLC/Knox and Enngonia and make it available to other local congregations, Uniting Church schools and rural communities. With Gordon's long history of rural support it seemed a good focus for the congregations even before we explored amalgamation. UCC existed to be matchmakers of sorts, linking up willing groups and helping their new partnerships with what we had learned. We developed resources, communicated the vision and invited a response.

While there was significant interest from rural schools and communities, despite our best efforts, we have been unable to enthuse local congregations (and to a lesser extent, other UC schools) to catch the vision and to sign up. So after three years, at my encouragement, Church Council has chosen to close Uniting City and Country.

It is vital to realise that this decision does not lessen Gordon-Pymble's involvement in rural ministry. UCC's central aim was always to help other churches and schools establish their own partnerships. For a range of reasons (mission creep?) the UCC committee did start to take some role in our support for Super and Mini Camps held out west but these had always also been linked with the Make A Difference Out West (MADOW) committee.

I provide this history lesson because I think the perception of some in our congregation is that UCC *is* Gordon-Pymble's rural work. But it was only ever to focus on new partnerships. MADOW, as a sub committee of the Mission Team, is now better placed to continue our co-ordination of our rural ministries in Enngonia, Griffith, at camps and more under the leadership of Di Willis.

The closure of UCC has also meant the conclusion of Julie Greig's employment with us. Julie was quite relieved because the permanent part-time arrangement we had with her was not really suited to the style of work. As MADOW considers our future rural work they will look to engage Julie on a casual basis, which would suit the more sporadic nature of our rural work, e.g. Super and Mini Camps and the development of the Weilmoringle rural exposure tours.

In pursuing its aims, UCC had invited representatives from Uniting Church schools onto its committee. This became a positive forum for discussions between our church and the schools around the rural work and so we are currently exploring how to maintain this vital connection. There is a bit more "mopping up" to ensure UCC closes well and stake-holders understand what, and what we are not, concluding.

We are ensuring that we are very clear with future fund-raising to say that funds are going to "rural ministry", not to UCC. And we are contacting groups who have specifically given to UCC to ensure they understand and are happy for their donations to go to our ongoing rural ministry.

I take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the UCC venture, especially Janet Scott for her excellent chairmanship, Julie Greig for her creative work in the bush, *Uniting's*

financial and personnel support and all those who have contributed to the committee. We look forward to our rural work going from strength to strength under MADOW's oversight.

Rev Steve Aynsley

MADOW – Making a Difference Out West

Our main fundraising event in 2019:

The High Tea on 10 August 2019, which raised	\$3,335.00
--	------------

Projects we supported in 2019:

Books for Enngonia – June 2019	\$559.23
--------------------------------	----------

Gidget Foundation in Dubbo – September 2019	\$2,000.00
---	------------

Griffith emergencies – September 2019	\$400.00
---------------------------------------	----------

Broken Hill Flying Patrol – October 2019	\$2,000.00
--	------------

Funds raised but not expended at 31 October 2019	\$4,407.06
--	------------

More information about our projects:

Clothes, bedding, Lego, toiletries et al

Clothes and bedding were taken to Griffith in June and September 2019.

Griffith

Margo Lowder visited Griffith in May 2019. Griffith legends Nicole Dehnert, Michelle Bordignon and Jude Hayman provided Margo with opportunities to see the great work being done there.

In December 2018 MADOW donated \$1,400 for Hampers of Hope. This is a food rescue program spearheaded by Griffith's Meals on Wheels. In October 2019 the program won the Sustainability Innovation Award organised by the Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network. Its chair, Dr Jodi Culbert, said, "It's clear there are many people, organisations and communities who are dedicated to improving health in our region."

The program deals with more than 300 kilograms of food per day and its size has tripled since it began 2½ years ago.

Gidget Foundation in Dubbo

The Gidget Foundation's aim is to *promote the importance of emotional wellbeing amongst expectant and new parents, their healthcare providers and the wider community, to ensure that those in need receive timely, appropriate and supportive care.*

We donated to the Compassionate Fund of Gidget House in Dubbo. The vast majority of the Foundation's clients in Dubbo are referred from the Aboriginal Medical Service. MADOW has been assured that the Compassionate Fund will support those from this group who need additional help. It is hoped that these funds will make a contribution to the growing regional perinatal mental health work being established by the Foundation.

The Foundation seems a special fit for MADOW. It grew from a North Shore family tragedy. As well, later on, Cathy (the daughter of Pymble's much-loved Barbara Knox) and Vijay Roach have provided significant support. By coincidence Cathy has twice hosted Enngonia Public School at her Lindfield home.

It is wonderful to know that the Gidget Foundation is now working out west.

Broken Hill Flying Patrol (BHFP)

The BHFP is administered by Macquarie Darling Presbytery. Peter Harvey, MDP Presbytery and Resource Minister, explained that, although there are individuals who financially support the BHFP, as does the Moderator's Drought Appeal, more funds are needed.

The Macquarie Darling Presbytery is not in a financial position to support the BHFP other than by administering the Patrol.

Pastor David Shrimpton, a member of the Uniting Church and a qualified Deacon, is the pilot and is involved in the Macquarie Darling Presbytery. He is doing a lot of pastoral visiting to properties in Western NSW and Eastern South Australia as well as working with other services in the area providing community services.

MADOW met David Shrimpton and learnt about BHFP at the Nyngan Supercamp. He had flown in two Broken Hill volunteers to cook with us.

Some possible future opportunities.

Condobolin UC Music Program

Julie Greig has alerted us to this program. Condobolin Uniting Church is proud of the music groups it supports. However they have a collection of overused and damaged instruments. Our contact, Pastor Beth Wolf, is finding out what is needed and the cost. Beth would buy in Dubbo and Julie volunteered to transport any good quality instruments we might collect. MADOW is waiting to find out what is needed, but would be in a position to offer money and make an appeal for good second-hand instruments when a request is received.

Breakfast BBQ at the Methadone Clinic in Bathurst

Julie Greig has been providing pastoral care at the Methadone Clinic and, with the support of the local Drug and Alcohol team, has been putting on a weekly BBQ breakfast for the Clinic's clients. This has had spectacular results for both clients and staff. The relationships built have allowed Julie to be able to help clients with personal crises, assisting them to deal with agencies and obtain housing etc. However, to date the BBQ is personally funded by Julie and some of the staff. Some outside funding is needed.

Julie has asked for \$160 for a pop-up marquee, plastic table and BBQ tools, but we think \$300 would be a better contribution.

Enngonia Public School

PLC is sending 10 students to visit Enngonia from Monday, 11 November to Thursday, 14 November. Rev Steve, Pam and Bob Stewart, David T and Diane W will be there, cooking. We will keep it simple, but we can't resist asking for contributions of slices. However we only want 8 trays of 20 bite size slices, especially gluten free and wheat free.

Clothing and bedding for Griffith

The next load will be taken in mid-November 2019. Summer items are best and any Lego. Both Gordon and Pymble sites have places to leave donations. We are fortunate that the Pittari Company provides free transport from Chipping Norton.

Christmas Stall

We suggest the Stall be held on Sunday, 1 December 2019, before and after the combined service at Gordon. It is a week earlier than in other years as it suits Griffith to receive the toys before the school year ends. We will have more time to get the toys to Chipping Norton and then onto the Pittari transport to reach Griffith.

Previous period

MADOW's last annual report was made to the Pymble congregation in October 2018. To cover the period from then until the present, the table at the end of this report shows funds raised and donations made since 30 June 2018.

Conclusion and thanks

MADOW has had another constructive year. Finding a place in our new congregation and seeing other activities flourishing is encouraging. We look forward to our Congregation achieving a balance between local, state, national and international ventures.

I would like to shine a spotlight on, and express my thanks to, the hard working, sensible backbone of MADOW – Margi Abraham, Yvonne Barber, Margo Lowder, Anne Neilson, Jane Simpson, Pam Stewart and Wendy Wallin.

Thank you too, Congregation, for your enthusiasm, support and encouragement for our endeavours.

Diane Willis

Convenor

MADOW Committee

October 2019

MADOW – funds raised and donations made 30 June 2018 – 31 October 2019

PUC		Debit	Credit	Balance
	Carried forward as at 30 June 2018			7,700.42
04 08 18	High Tea		3,149.00	10,849.42
23 10 18	Griffith support for mother and son	300.00		10,549.42
26 10 18	Coles Drought Relief Appeal	2,000.00		8,549.42
01 11 18	Meals		1,258.00	9,807.42
19 11 18	Moderator's Drought Appeal	1,258.00		8,549.42
21 11 18	Stir up Sunday donation		521.00	9,070.42
06 12 18	West Pymble Carols in the Park	1,500.00		7,570.42
16 12 18	Christmas Stall		1,505.00	9,075.42
17 12 18	Turramurra High School Program	1,000.00		8,075.42

19 12 18	Griffith Meals on Wheels for tote bags	700.00		7,375.42
19.12.18	Griffith Hampers of Hope	700.00		6,675.42
19 12 18	Griffith Emergency Funding	600.00		6,075.42
31 12 18	Reimburse for ALDI Toys	326.13		5,749.29
GPUC				
	Carried forward as at 1 January 2019			5,749.29
10 03 19	Donations		174.00	5,923.29
04 06 19	Donations for meals		108.00	6,031.29
19 06 19	Enngonia books (excl GST)	559.23		5,472.06
10 08 19	High Tea		3,335.00	8,807.06
20 09 19	Gidget Foundation in Dubbo	2,000.00		6,807.06
20 09 19	Griffith (Michelle B)	400.00		6,407.06
24 10 19	Broken Hill Flying Patrol	2,000.00		4,407.06

Uniting Gordon Community Centre (UGCC)

The Uniting Gordon Community Centre is an activity hub which welcomes people of all ages and cultures, enabling them to pursue interests and ideas, as they walk beside each other exploring the meaning of life in our changing community.

UGCC is grateful to our volunteer tutors and organisers for the committed and enthusiastic sharing of their various abilities. In 2018 our tutors and organisers were:

Jeanie Atkinson (Painting and Drawing),
Paul Swadling (Current Affairs), assisted by Peter Norman and Richard Hansford
Bruce Kwong (Computers),
Lesley Meldrum (Needlecraft),
Shirley Morley (Mahjong),
Roslyn Rossetin (Walking Group),
Chris Hudson (Stories in the Courtyard),
Flo Brawn and Rosemary Watson (Wrap with Love), and
Bruce and Rosemary Watson (Lunch in the Courtyard).

UGCC includes the playgroups (see separate report) and we are grateful to Nicola Robinson for the care and creativity she supplies for children, parents and grandparents.

UGCC recognises the valuable contribution of the members of its Management Committee: Kerry Blight, John Buchanan, Sue Conde (Director), Ann Dalton, Christopher Hudson, Nicola Robinson, Rosemary Watson and Paul Swadling (Chair).

OUR VISION

The Uniting Gordon Community Centre is a growing, inclusive activity hub which welcomes people of all ages and cultures, enabling them to pursue interests and ideas as they walk beside each other, exploring the meaning of life in our changing community.

OUR MISSION

The Uniting Gordon Community Centre aims to assist the development of a vibrant, connected, interactive Gordon community.

We are continually improving the UGCC activity hub by listening to new ideas, being responsive to changing needs, including community newcomers, trialling new activities, providing opportunities for social interaction and friendship formation, being open to different suggestions, supporting one another, providing opportunities for volunteers and planning for growth.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2017 - 2020

The following three goals emerged from the strategic planning carried out by the UGCC Board:

GOAL 1: Attract new people to become part of the UGCC community by regularly promoting the community spirit of the Centre's many activities.

GOAL 2: Identify possible new activities and incorporate them into the UGCC program.

GOAL 3: Begin conversations with likely new volunteers about programs they may be prepared to run. Recruit new volunteers to run programs as appropriate.

OUR NAME

The union of Gordon and Pymble Congregations led to discussion regarding a new name for the community centre. It was considered that 'Uniting Gordon Pymble Community Centre' sounded more like an effort to unite the two congregations, rather than the community. So, for the moment, the community centre has retained the name 'Uniting Gordon Community Centre'. However, suggestions for a new name and ideas about how to make the community centre available to people in the Pymble community will be welcomed.

SHOWCASING ONE GROUP:

Chris Hudson, a member of the UGCC Management Committee, let us know of community grants available from Stockland through their CARE Grant Program, and we applied for and received a grant of \$990 to enable us to establish a **Community Garden**.

We are developing community garden to enable us:

- To offer a TAFE course accessible to people seeking employment skills, to construct the garden and seating in the back-lawn area of the church;
- To grow vegetables, herbs, plants which may be used in the kitchen of the church for regular use or at special events;
- To offer access to the garden to residents living in the local area as a community resource, and to families attending Playgroups, etc.

Lesley Burt (Ability Links) introduced us to Bryony Gliddon, Head Teacher, St. Leonards and Hornsby TAFE, Career Pathways and Employability Skills. With her assistance, a plan for building two raised garden beds and two benches has been implemented.

A horticulture course at Gordon Uniting Church has so far comprised seven-week programs in Terms 2 and 3 with a cohort of seven students. Paul Sagan, Horticulture teacher at TAFE, and Miriam Cullen, also from TAFE, are the enthusiastic leaders and supporters of the course.

The course commenced in May 2019 and on 21 June 2019 certificates of completion were awarded to the students. The students attend the site each Friday from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm.

They engage with the participants at the Community Centre at morning tea and at lunch, raising awareness of the garden. A list has been made available for people to write down what plants they would like to see planted in the garden.

We are excited to see the growth of the Community Garden. On the last day of Term 3 we congratulated the students on the completion of another term, and picked the first harvest from the garden - providing salad with the sausages for lunch.

KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL:

The Council has taken an interest in Uniting Gordon Community Centre. In the “early phase of updating Community Needs Analysis and Priority Issues that will inform Council’s new Community Strategic Plan 2038”, the Chairperson of the UGCC was invited to an Aged Services Community Needs Analysis Workshop. The community needs analysis is based on a number of target groups e.g. children and families, young people, older people, people with disabilities, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities etc.

In the “Aged Services Provider Community Needs Analysis Workshop” Council road tested:

- Key community issues and needs documented in current planning documents,
- identify emerging issues and/or community needs,
- confirm key policy directions at a Commonwealth and State Government level and;
- gain your perspective of Council’s role in this area.

Danny Houseas, Council’s Community Development Manager, is impressed by UGCC’s connections with the Ku-ring-gai community and, particularly, with connections with Asian residents via the playgroups UGCC provides (see separate report). Danny Houseas has visited UGCC a number of times.

UNION OF GORDON AND PYMBLE CONGREGATIONS

The union of Gordon and Pymble Congregations raises several questions for UGCC. The most important of these is how we might be able to extend the reach of the congregation’s community centre into the Pymble community. This question and others will be considered as we move into the future.

UGCC FINANCES:

Fees for all courses have been reduced this year. Fees for all classes are \$55 per 9 week term. A special rate for two people from the same household is \$81 per term. Casual rates for all classes are \$8 per week and the price for lunch (sausage sizzle, dessert and a glass of wine or juice) is \$7.

Each term a contribution for our use of the centre is given to GPUC, and the total of the contribution for the financial year ended 30 June 2019 was \$7500. The charity we supported in 2019 was again the Lindara Family Program and a donation of \$1500 from fundraising from Sales Tables and the Christmas Raffle will be presented to Lindara at our Christmas Service and Morning Tea.

Paul Swadling (Rev)
Chairperson, UGCC

Communications Team

The Communications Team was established early in 2019 following the merger of the two congregations, and its Charter was approved by the Church Council in June.

The team plays a key role in how congregation members and members of the wider community perceive the Church and receive information about the life, witness and mission of GPUC. Its mandate is to inform, to imagine, to influence, to advise and assist the Council in managing communication within the church and beyond, and to meet social expectations of GPUC.

The members of the team are Bruce Kwong (Chairperson), Steve Aynsley, Sue Conde, Nicola Robertson, Natasha Radley and Paul Swadling.

The team has identified the scope of its responsibilities to include:

- Update and maintain the Database (initially merged from Gordon and Pymble databases), and maintain the Baptism, Funeral and Wedding Registers.
- Build a new website for the congregation, and maintain it with regular updates
- Prepare, print and distribute 'The Directory' of Contacts and Calendar of Events, and Rosters for Sunday mornings at each site.
- Prepare, print and distribute 'Weekly Newsletters' for Sunday mornings at each site.
- Print and distribute the quarterly magazine 'A Shared Path'.
- Coordinate the preparation and display for Street Signs/Notice Boards
- Prepare publicity material for events, special worship services, etc, as required.
- Publicise regular and special events using appropriate means (handouts, email, websites, street signs/notice boards, letter box drops, advertising, media organisations etc).
- Organise training of Team members and others as required e.g. Audio-Visual equipment, Website contents management tools, Office application software (MS Access, Word, PowerPoint, Publisher)
- Regularly assess Communications Assets (Contacts database, Websites, Audio-Visual equipment, Street Signs/Notice Boards) and when needed request maintenance or replacement.
- Provide advice to Council on Communications and Publications policies, e.g. Photography Policy, IT and email policy, and ensure that these policies are in line with UCA Synod of NSW & ACT policies and guidelines.
- Produce guidelines for media campaigns and plan media coverage to promote what we do.
- Prepare and submit regular updates and items to Facebook pages and the Presbytery newsletter
-

The Church Council and Communications Team have identified a number of priorities for the coming year. The Team is also committed to working with and assisting other groups and teams in the intentional development of communicating to the wider community.

Bruce Kwong
Chairperson

Special Religious Education in Schools

All Protestant SRE teachers attended the annual day training course held at The Kings School, Parramatta in February to update their skills and knowledge for SRE teaching in NSW Public Schools.

For many years at Pymble, SRE teachers have used the curriculum Christian Religious Education, ordered from Access Ministries in Victoria. The lessons and workbooks were engaging and relevant to children from K - 6. Sadly, Access Ministries closed in December 2018, due in part to the many changes and requirements that have taken place in Victoria.

The preferred curriculum of the Uniting Church NSW/ACT is now GodSpace from Burst Christian Resources that publishes material for the Baptist Church.

The teachers and children have made a smooth transition to the new course and have covered stories from the Old & New Testaments that provide a good understanding of biblical themes for each age group as they move through primary school.

I teach Year 1 at Pymble at 9.00am, Courtney teaches Year 5 at Pymble at 9.30am and Steve continues to teach Year 5 students at Gordon West at 11.35am and Year 5 at West Pymble at 12.30pm.

Our Year 1 and 5 classes at Pymble presented the Easter Assembly in the hall in April with readings, songs and a creative dance showing the emotions of the disciple Thomas. Steve gave the Children's Talk and used the data projector. It is very helpful on these occasions to show words for the songs on the screen and also appropriate visual reminders to reinforce the message.

Robyn Joyce
SRE Coordinator

Stir Up Sundays

One hundred and seventy people joined us for the 2018 Stir-Ups in October and November. They ranged in age from 3 to 83. There were mums and dads, grandparents and children coming from all over Sydney and even one participant who flies from Brisbane each year to join us.

One hundred and seventy-seven puddings were made, including the ones that are consumed at the afternoon tea which follows each of the pudding making sessions.

This year, Courtney conducted the first Messy Church Stir-Up for young families which was great fun and very successful.

Steve always chats with the participants at the sessions and blesses the puddings at the end.

Steve's Pudding Blessing

*Lord God of the pudding,
as different ingredients have come together in the making of these creations,
so may our family Christmas gatherings be a happy blend of different personalities.
As the puddings are created to be given and consumed,
may we learn that our lives are most tasty when we are given away in love and care to
those around us.
And as these puddings go to different homes in a variety of places,
may each one carry the love, grace and peace that Christ came to bring to the world.
Amen.*

Thank you to all the helpers who make this wonderful community event possible.

Judy Gill

Choir

The choir presently does its best to sing at each service at Pymble (numbers permitting) leading with an Introit and then supporting the congregation during the service.

During the joint Sunday services at Gordon and Pymble the choir is made up of members from both churches.

The yearly Christmas Carol service is a highlight of the choir for which we have dedicated practices and will be held in December this year.

Our numbers are small but enthusiasm BIG and we are hopeful to attract more members from the congregation during the year, noting that reading of music is not a prerequisite. We enjoy the singing and hope the joy of music enhances God's message to all!

Alex Hovy

Heart & Mind

Heart & Mind is an informal discussion group of about ten people, that meets at 6 pm on the third Sunday of each month at my home in West Pymble. The group began about 30 years ago when we all had young children and mostly knew each other from church or the church playgroup. Back then, the group was called 'Caring & Sharing'. We all worked part-time, so we met during day and brought our babies and toddlers with us. When our children grew older, we needed to accommodate those who started working full time, so we changed to having evening meetings.

This year, now that most of us are retired (as are our husbands), some men have started to come along and we have enjoyed their input into our discussions. Steve Aynsley also comes along occasionally and lets us know about books we could use as a basis for our discussion. It can take us anything up to 10 meetings to complete a book. We mostly choose Christian

literature that leads us to think more deeply about our faith and how we might live it in today's cultural climate.

Our book this year was "*God is Good for you: A defence of Christianity in troubled times*" by the well-known journalist for *The Australian*, Greg Sheridan. This book acknowledges that in Australia and in other parts of the western world, fewer people are identifying with any religion and Christianity has become a minority belief. Christianity no longer holds the moral authority it once did. Greg Sheridan then provides historical evidence as to how Christianity has underpinned the moral and legal fabric of western society in the past. He also relates his interviews with some prominent politicians across the political spectrum, in which they talk about their Christian faith and how they have been motivated by it. As Christians are now a minority, Greg Sheridan concludes by encouraging us to behave like a guerilla force with strong leadership, a bold clear message and worship that is coherent, understandable and beautiful.

If you haven't yet read Greg Sheridan's book and would like a copy, I have a couple to give away. We have our final meeting for the year in November, and will be starting up again in February with a new book. Please let me know if you might be interested in joining our group.

Heather McMaster

Thursday morning Bible Study group

This bible study group started as an outcome from the Alpha course held at Gordon more than 20 years ago, and has been meeting weekly since then. Our studies generally focus on the readings and commentaries from *With Love to the World*, which covers the lectionary readings each week, and prepares us for Sunday morning worship. We are appreciative of the learning and insights from the commentaries which are prepared by a wide diversity of Uniting Church ministers and leaders, and are thankful for the editorship of *With Love to the World* by Dr Peter Butler. From time to time we have also explored seasonal studies during, for instance, Lent, Pentecost or Advent.

We welcome anyone who would like to join the group – Just come along – we can provide you with a copy of *With Love to the World* – on Thursday mornings at 10.15 in the Library at Gordon.

David Conde

The Stitching Group

Incredibly another year has passed! The Stitching Group remains as strong as ever - this year we have met on Thursdays at the Highway Centre and have been very pleased to welcome some of the Pymble ladies as well as others via the Community Centre. We were extra pleased to have a visit one night from Steve himself, and he didn't need to stitch - he could just talk!

Our long-time email-sender Judy Pitman decided to take a rest and we thank her for her dedication over so many years in keeping us up to scratch with what was going on when. The Stitching Group has also been a big support and help with the Annual Wrap With Love Day in August, and again this year we had an amazing display, an unbelievable morning tea (thank you to all who contributed to that) and lots of visitors, including a large group of girls from Ravenswood who came to take part and also contributed an enormous bag of completed squares.

The Group continues to be a wonderful source of friendship and help when needed and is always happy to see new faces, whether or not they "stitch"!

Beth Bunyan, Flo Brawn, Rosemary Watson

PUnCh Discussion

The PUnCh Discussion Group has been meeting for at least eight years at Pymble. It is representative of the changing nature of the church – that not everyone finds Sunday morning or a traditional, less interactive service suitable for them, yet they want to remain in touch and explore faith.

So PUnCh was born to meet these needs of the mainly 50 – 60+ year age group; the group we often describe as ‘the missing generation’ in the Uniting Church. We meet fortnightly in the lounge area at Pymble and discuss a topic that has either been in the news or that might be common for our age and stage.

We have vibrant discussions and seek to conclude with a Christian perspective on whatever issue we have discussed and reflect on what small wisdom we might take away for our week ahead.

2019 has been a strong year for PUnCh with new people (and old friends) joining the group. This has added to our discussions and sense of fellowship. We appreciate that as some retire from employment – or not – people are often away traveling, and we welcome them whenever they are able to be present.

The PUnCh gang are strong supporters of Stir Up Sundays, MADOW and other church activities. The challenge remains for us all to continue to see PUnCh (and Messy Church) as new forms of church reaching out in new ways, and not just a means of attracting people to Sunday morning worship.

Rev Steve Aynsley

The Luncheon Group

The Luncheon Group is a fellowship group which has met at Gordon in one form or another for more than twenty years. With our new merged congregation, we have been delighted to welcome some of the 'Pymble' people to our Lunch meetings during 2019. We have been very glad to welcome Steve who talked to us about pastoral care and how we can be cared for and care for others in our congregation.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month, bringing our sandwiches or whatever we prefer for our lunch, and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cake. Once again, we are grateful for the generosity of our hosts. Thank you to Jeanie and Eric Atkinson, Sue and David Conde, Margaret and John Edler, Judy and David Elmslie, and Janet Scott and Paul Swadling for opening their homes to us. Our "day in the country" at Jeanie and Eric's home at Duffys Forest is always a highlight of the year – this year held on a beautiful sunny day in June.

There is always sadness when friends are lost, and this year we have been saddened by the deaths of Edith Bowtell and David Elmslie, who always enjoyed conversations at the Luncheon Group. Our love and thoughts are with Edith's family and with Judy and David's families.

In December our Christmas Lunch will again be hosted by Jeanie and Eric – last year almost 70 people enjoyed a beautiful sit-down Christmas lunch with many special touches, and we welcome everyone to come along on Thursday, 5th December – details will be available in the newsletter.

Janet Scott and Sue Conde

Coffee Connections

After four fantastic decades with Lorraine Colvin in the lead, I have managed to survive the first two years – or almost. Still three to go for this year.

Firstly, thanks to my great Committee without which the books wouldn't balance, no gift for the speaker, no biscuits for morning tea, no tables to sit at and the washing up would probably still be there for the next Sunday Service. Thanks must also go to Reverend Steve and Reverend Bernard for their very thoughtful, short insights into sections of the Bible - the current one by Bernard is focused on the brutal Psalms. Flinging children against rocks, torture, rape and pillage. Not the nice ones like the 23rd. I won't comment on the mandatory joke each must tell – some are worth hysterical laughter and some just deserve a groan.

And the Speakers. Topics have ranged from the Funnel Web spider, Finland, Daphne du Maurier, Antarctica, the next stage of building a super style kayak to paddle to New Zealand, Revolutions, a small ship up the coast of Alaska, modern art music, sculpture on a farm – all 100 pieces, Medieval medicine, the Bungle Bungles in the wet – on bicycles, the live cattle "export" trade, Botswana, Elephants, Girl Guides and the Folk Music culture. How diverse can you get? A huge thank you must be given to Graham Sims, Gary Lowder, Teresa

Petersen, Heather McMaster, Rick Barnes, Bernard Thorogood, John Lewis, Philippa Graham, Carmel Bendon, John Barnes, Jim Simpson, Sue Conde and even my wife Jane.

And my last 'thanks you' must be to the people who come along both from Gordon and Pymble. We are right at the station to make it easier for the Gordon people who don't think we have enough parking spaces and the Pymble people who have somehow managed over the years. We meet four consecutive Thursdays each term and you will find details in the Pew Sheets. Coming up for the remainder of this year we have the second instalment of Hornsby Hospital, a Choir tour of the UK and GOLD, GOLD, GOLD. Thank you all for your support.

John Simpson
Convenor

Friendship Circle

Friendship Circle: This group continues to meet at Pymble on the 3rd Monday of the month at 10.15 am. We usually have about 12 women attending, although men are always welcome. After morning tea there is a short devotion followed by a speaker or discussion.

Lorraine Colvin

The Trading Table

The Trading Table at Gordon – located in the hallway leading from the front door of the Highway Centre – continues to move a variety of goods under the basis of "one man's trash.....etc" adding to our Church's funds in a small way.

Our grateful thanks to all those who have supported our endeavour and particularly do I want to acknowledge the tremendous effort made by Flo Brawn who can be found working away quietly on any day of the week, mostly on her own, sorting, pricing and moving stuff around and keeping the table interesting and active.

Rosemary Watson

Yak and Yarn

A small but very supportive group meets at Munch Cafe, West Pymble on the last Tuesday morning of every month for a coffee and a chat. The average age is 92, but you don't have to be that old to join us.

Judy Gill

Breakfast Forums (or if you like, “Breakfast Fora”)

This report covers the 12 months from 1st July, 2018 as we appear not to have reported previously on the 6 months period leading up to the official commencement of GPUC on 1st January, 2019.

The “committee” – those named below - decided that there was really no need to keep accumulated funds as has been done – with a few exceptions – for the whole period that the breakfasts have been held; the charge each event (currently \$10) enables us to meet expenses each time. So, we expended the following amounts to eliminate money on hand:

\$425 to Uniting World (via GPUC) for their Kiribati project

\$71 for two bins to replace the one recycling bin in the kitchen at Gordon

These breakfast events started back in 1995 - then “Men’s Breakfast” - and the aim from the start has been to have four breakfasts each year. This aim has not always been achieved as was the case in the period of this report. Attendance each Forum has usually been at least 30.

August 2018 – Guy Cooper from the Wayside Chapel spoke on “The Impact and Challenge to Wayside Chapel’s Mission, Vision and Values”

November 2018 – Herb Schoch and Jessie Koh told of their then recent travels in Italy and Greece while Paul Swadling and Janet Scott gave an account of their travels in Italy, Greece and, particularly, Malta (also occurring in the second half of 2018).

May 2019 – Alison Battisson (human rights lawyer who works from Room 4 at Gordon Highway Centre) spoke on the topic “Do we have human rights in Australia? Examined through the prism of detained asylum seekers”.

We always like to see people who have not been to our breakfasts before or if they have not been regulars. Attendees do not have to be members of GUC, or now GPUC; they can be members of other churches or of no religious persuasion; we would welcome all, male or female.

We thank all who helped with our forums over the past year. We are always happy to receive suggestions for speakers so if you have some thoughts in this regard, please talk to one of the people named below.

Bruce Kwong, Herb Schoch, Bruce Watson

Book Group at Gordon

The Book Group meets at 8pm on the first Monday of the month, other than in January, to discuss books selected by the group one or two months in advance of the meeting. We enjoy good discussion of our chosen book, sometimes veering a little off-topic! The Group aims to select books from a variety of genres, fiction and non-fiction, and from authors of different nationalities. The Group aims to choose books, classic or recent, that are available in libraries or easily purchased as a paperback or online.

Members do not need to have read or finished the book to participate and new members are always welcome.

Lyn McLennan

Book Club at Pymble

Linda Lamberton convenes the Book Club at Pymble, which also meets on the first Monday of the months.

Attachments in separate documents:

1. Income and Expenditure Statement – 30th June 2019
2. Balance Sheet – 30th June 2019
3. Budget for 2019/20